



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Region I – New England  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

June 23, 2017

Ken Edwardson  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Water Division  
29 Hazen Drive, Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: New Hampshire's 2016 Draft 303(d) List

Dear Mr. Edwardson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the State's draft 2016 Clean Water Act section 303(d) list. By this letter, we intend to alert you to questions and concerns we have about whether the administrative record would support the State's decision not to list certain water body segment/impairment combinations in the Great Bay Estuary. These concerns are the same concerns EPA had when we commented on the State's decision to delist certain water body segment/impairment combinations in the Great Bay Estuary on the State's 2014 303(d) list.

We are evaluating the scientific rationale included by NH DES for these decisions, and look forward to receiving any additional information included in the State's final list to support the above-referenced assessment zones. Any such additional information, together with that provided thus far by NH DES, will enable EPA to carry out its obligation to review and to approve or disapprove the decisions the State will make with respect to these and other assessment zones in the Great Bay Estuary and throughout the State. See 40 C.F.R. §130.7.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 617-918-1629, or have someone from your staff contact Toby Stover at 617-918-1604.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Abele  
Chief, Water Quality Branch